

From: Theodore Saari
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/9/02 11:24am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I received an mass-mailing email from Microsoft that requested we send our views on the proposed settlement to you "Whatever your view of the settlement." Just before this "unbiased" request for comments, Microsoft said:

"Unfortunately, a few special interests are attempting to use this review period to derail the settlement and prolong this litigation even in the midst of uncertain economic times. The last thing the American economy needs is more litigation that benefits only a few wealthy competitors and stifles innovation.

Don't let these special interests defeat the public interest."

I have received NO solicitations from any person or group in any form that asked me to voice my opinion on this settlement. It appears to me that Microsoft is the one waging a campaign to get public response to the proposed settlement. The wording of their request clearly suggests the type of response they desire.

Microsoft's claim that "only a few wealthy competitors" will benefit from prolonged litigation is amazing. Microsoft is one of the wealthiest companies in the world. Bill Gates is reported to be the wealthiest person in the world. Many of Microsoft's executives are extremely wealthy. Microsoft and its executives are the ones who will benefit most from a quick settlement, especially one where they have dictated the terms of it.

The wealth acquired by Microsoft, Bill Gates, and the executives is the result of a monopolistic and coercive business environment. Microsoft's restrictions on competitors and their use of proprietary "undocumented features" of their operating systems has handicapped any competition for years. Their restrictions and bullying of OEMs has made the MS operating systems the de facto standard for many years. There are virtually no competitors to their operating systems.

Microsoft's proposal as part of the settlement to "donate" \$1 billion in hardware and software to the poorest public schools is one of the best (and cheapest) advertising gimmicks they could get from this settlement. Not only will the schools be teaching and supporting MS products, Microsoft will be able to take a tax deduction on this advertising. They will reap extreme benefits from this punishment.

I support the nine states that have not accepted this proposed settlement and urge the US Government to reject it.

Theodore C Saari
7917 Orchard Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-2414
763-585-6578